

Ashoka's youth venture

DREAM IT. DO IT.

Youth Venture National Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2009

In This Issue

Golden Opportunities

YV Nation

Action Kit Tips

In Your Neck of the
Woods

Venture Spotlight

YV Global

Quick Links

[GenV.net](#)

[About Youth Venture](#)

[YV Mid-Atlantic](#)

[YV Mid-West](#)

[YV New England](#)

[YV New York and Virtual](#)

[YV National](#)

[YV Seattle](#)

[YV Digital](#)

[Donate Now](#)

Dear Kristin,

Greetings! We hope your 2009 has started well- there is so much you can do through Youth Venture to make this a memorable year! There is still time to plan- [click](#) for ways to make this year the best yet for you and your Venture.

Dr. Martin Luther King Day- A Day of Service

**Create your own
neighborhood
project!**

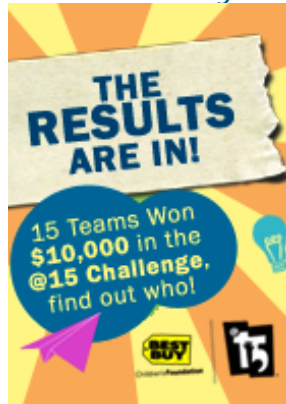


Young people from all over the country celebrated the birthday of this legendary changemaker by serving their communities on January 19th. See [YV](#)

[Nation](#) for more details.

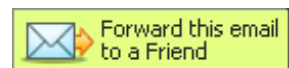


The Best Buy® @15™ Challenge with YV



Winners Announced! Thank you, to everyone who participated in voicing your vote in this record-breaking competition. Do you think your favorite Venture Team won \$10,000 to expand their impact and support change within their cause? Find out [NOW](#) to see if your favorite made the grade. Inspired by the 30 finalists and their Ventures? You can start your own project too! Go to [genv.net/en-us/dream_it](#) to get started.

Sincerely,
Youth Venture



Golden Opportunities

Take advantage of these great grants, programs, and scholarships!

Global Social Benefit Incubator Competition



Up to 20 social entrepreneurs who best demonstrate a sustainable and scalable approach to addressing urgent human needs throughout the world will receive a full scholarship valued at US\$25,000 to attend the two week in-residence program in Silicon Valley, CA, in August 2009. Participants will benefit from consulting on their business plan and receive mentorship by Santa Clara University faculty and Silicon Valley start-up veterans.

Deadline for exercise- "Definition of a Business Model": Feb 20, 2009

Website: www.socialedge.org/features/gsbi

Go "On the Ground" with The New York Times



New York Times Columnist and Blogger, Nicholas Kristof, is offering to take a university student with him on a reporting trip to Africa, giving the student a chance to blog for nytimes.com and file videos to The Times and YouTube. Undergrad and graduate students who are 18 or older can apply for the Win-a-Trip contest by submitting an essay, a video, or both. Read [Kristof's blog](#) and watch his [video](#) for the full details of the application process and the trip.

Deadline: Feb 13, 2009, midnight, Eastern Time

Neighborhood Excellence Awards

Bank of America recognizes community leaders with their Neighborhood Excellence initiatives. BOFA is giving Student Leaders Awards (including a week-long summit in Washington, DC) to young people making a difference and Neighborhood Builders Awards to non-profit organizations that serve communities.



[Learn more about these opportunities.](#)

Student Leaders Deadline: Feb 20, 2009

Neighborhood Builders Deadline: June 30, 2009

The Public Forum Institute Intern Associate Program



The Public Forum Institute Intern Associate Program offers college students the opportunity to live and work in Washington, DC gaining experience in government and public policy. The Public Forum Institute gives students an opportunity to make a real contribution, have direct

contact with congressional staff, as well as members of the executive branch and other elected officials, and work on the Global Entrepreneurship Week initiative.

Contact the US Program Coordinator, Kristina Libby, at klibby@unleashingideas.org for more about this opportunity. Visit www.unleashingideas.org as well, to learn more.

Want more information about scholarships, programs, and grants? Many more

are listed on GenV.net. Check out the following links: [Opportunities](#) for Venturers and [Grants and Scholarship Opportunities](#) for Venturers.

[Back to Top of Page](#)



YV Nation

2009 King Day of Service: January 19

King Day of Service is transforming the federal holiday honoring Dr. King into a national day of community service. The aim is to make the holiday an annual day ON (not a day off), where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King envisioned.

The 2009 King Day of Service included A record number of more than 13,000 service projects all across the country where volunteers came together for their communities delivering meals, refurbishing schools, reading to children, signing up mentors, and much, much more.

Read the [Project Highlights](#) for more about the day, and discover a number of valuable resources on the mlkday.gov site that can help you in planning,

marketing, fundraising and managing volunteers for your own community-benefiting Ventures.

EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT, BECAUSE EVERYBODY CAN SERVE.





The YV staff in the National Office and volunteers who were visiting DC for the Inauguration rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty- all in the name of service. The YV staff was proud to host their MLK Day event at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington, [Richard England Clubhouse #14](#) in Northeast DC. At the Club, YV and volunteers helped to clean up and give a much needed paint job to the Teen Center and the Multi Purpose Room in preparation for the teen participants of the Club to paint murals to beautify their space.

It was a long fun-filled day. YV had the opportunity to speak with volunteers about Youth Venture and give examples of all the wonderful projects Venturers do, and volunteers shared their reasons for serving.

Share your Day of Service story and photos with YV at yvfellowship@youthventure.org and post them on your GenV profile.

Visit GenV.net to find out about other exciting programs that Youth Venture is sponsoring!

[Back to Top of Page](#)

"The time is always right to do what is right."

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love"

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Action Kit Tips

Fundraising

There are different types of resources your Venture Team should try to seek funding from. [Learn the different ways](#) fundraising from individuals, businesses, and holding fundraising events can help to sustain your Venture.



Funding From Individuals~

Getting out and talking to the community about your Venture and its needs can help generate interest and excitement around your work. [Here](#) are some tips for approaching individuals and asking them for donations.

Funding from Businesses~

Local businesses are sometimes more likely to give than national chain stores. Local businesses often feel invested in the well-being of the community and want the community to know that [they are giving back](#). In return for a business's donation, they may want to be publicly recognized. You can publicize businesses by adding their logos to your T-shirts, website, or flyers. If your Team is having an event, announce the sponsors and list them in the hand-out materials.

Fundraising Events~

Events can be a great way to have fun and raise money at the same time. For example, you can throw a party, hold a benefit concert, or host a bowling night. The proceeds from the event can then be used to fund your Venture. [Click here](#) for some ideas to get you started as you decide what's best for your team.

For additional helpful tools like Marketing, Sustainability and more, go to [Grow It](#) on GenV.net.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

In Your Neck of the Woods

YV Seattle

Teams in the Seattle region have been very busy (and very successful) in their efforts to make change in their community and around the world. See what they've been up to...

[Richard's Rwanda](#) is one of the 15 winning teams in the Best Buy @15 Challenge! Congrats Team! Venturers should consider contacting Richard's Rwanda for advice on networking and rallying support for their cause- they may have some really helpful tips for success. [Check them out!](#)

[Hand & Heart](#) is also making strides in connecting with another part of the globe. They coordinated a holiday celebration at the Botshabelo AIDS Orphanage in South Africa, a small step towards their overall goal of expanding, supporting, and improving this orphanage.

Feed Da Game, a youth-run clothing label that seeks to support homeless youth shelters through donations, community-building events, a representative brand, and by sharing their own personal experiences at local shelters, will be telling the story of their Venture at the first-ever ASN-YV joint event on February 26th 2009. Contact YV Seattle for [more details about this event](#).

[Kill the Chill](#) donated 150+ handmade scarves to a local homeless shelter this month, bringing their total to over 250 scarves over the last two winter seasons. Their efforts are helping to better the quality of life for the homeless during the cold winter months.

[Dig Deep](#) has raised over \$2,000 in their first few months of operation! They are over 20% of the way towards funding the installation of TWELVE public water taps in rural Ethiopia.

Access your neck of the woods~ [New England](#), [Midwest](#), [NY and Tri-state](#), [Seattle](#), [Mid-Atlantic](#) ~to share ideas, seek advice, and stay informed as to what is going on in your broader community to help to grow and sustain your Venture.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Venture Spotlight Starring: NETwork Against Malaria



[NETwork Against Malaria](#) is a non-profit organization that raises awareness and funds to purchase insecticide-treated malaria bed nets for Ugandan families to reduce mosquito bites- a cause of malaria. Mary and her team educates their local community in southern Illinois by giving presentations about the seriousness of malaria, life saving effects of malaria bed nets, living conditions in Uganda and the school system there. They organize fundraisers and make and sell jewelry to raise money for their cause. NETwork has provided 350 bed nets to girls in secondary school in Hoima, Uganda and 50 bed nets to the surrounding village of Bwikara. The team hopes to raise enough money to purchase bed nets for the 450 students of Bwikara grade school within the next 6 months. NETwork's goal is to educate a new generation of Ugandans and Americans and unite them in the fight against malaria.

Shout Out

My Own Book has donated over 16,600 books, so far, to schools and young readers in an effort to spread literacy. Way to go Kyle and Brady! Youth Venture founder, Bill Drayton, personally recognized My Own Book this week for all of their success. "May the coming New Year -- and beyond -- bring My Own Book and you the greatest possible success and happiness!" - Bill Drayton

Submit your Venture to yvfellowship@youthventure.org for consideration in future Newsletter issues.

Learn about changemakers and [Venture Teams](#) just like you. Compose an [Action Plan](#) to start your own Venture. Chat with other Venturers via [Forums](#).

[Back to Top of Page](#)

YV Global

India

Since launching her Venture in India last year, Natasha is making headlines by taking on the apathy towards voting in South Mumbai with her student initiative, I-vote - Wear the Mark. College students can register to vote with ease and participate in India's election process thanks to I-vote. The significance of Natasha's work is BIG. She has helped the Election Commission to eliminate the long, bureaucratic process holding back young people in Mumbai from voting. Here in the US, we know the effect young people can have being involved in the democratic process and on making change in election results. I-vote is ensuring that every young person's voice is heard and every one of their votes are counted. The success of I-vote appeared in the front page of the Times of India newspaper on December 23, 2008. [Check it out!](#)

See all [Global Regions](#) that have Youth Venturers.

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